

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of acquiring vehicle data from a vehicle data bus, comprising:

~~executing~~ providing a telematics application on a local telematics unit within a vehicle, the telematics application implemented as a software program including generic requests for vehicle parameter data that are not specific to any particular make or model of the vehicle;

providing an abstract software layer operatively disposed between the telematics application and the vehicle data bus;

executing the telematics application;

retrieving, by the abstract software layer and responsive to the a requests for vehicle parameter data from the telematics application, vehicle data bus information from a database that stores data bus information for a plurality of different types of data busses, the retrieved vehicle data bus information being associated with the type of data bus used on the vehicle on which the telematics application is executed;

extracting vehicle data from the vehicle data bus using the vehicle data bus information retrieved from the database, the vehicle data corresponding to the requests for vehicle parameter data;

interpreting the retrieved vehicle data; and

providing the interpreted data to the telematics application to satisfy the request for vehicle data.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving comprises:

establishing a wireless link to a remote server;

accessing a vehicle database with the remote server; and

downloading vehicle data bus information to the local vehicle library from the remote database.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the step of using further comprises passing the vehicle data bus information to a protocol driver.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein:

the telematics application comprises a vehicle diagnostics application program.

5-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) A method of acquiring vehicle data from any of a plurality of different vehicle makes, comprising:

executing a telematics application on a local telematics unit operatively connected to a vehicle;

requesting vehicle parameter data by the telematics application;

accessing, responsive to the step of requesting vehicle parameter data, a database that stores data bus information for a plurality of different vehicle makes;

querying the database to retrieve data bus information for a particular vehicle make that corresponds to the vehicle; and

extracting vehicle data from a vehicle data bus using the vehicle data bus information; and

conditionally requesting other vehicle parameter data by the telematics application depending upon the extracted vehicle data.

10. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of extracting comprises passing the data bus information to a protocol driver.

11. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the telematics application includes a plurality of requests for vehicle parameter data, the method comprising, for each request,

accessing, responsive to the step of requesting vehicle parameter data, the database that stores data bus information for a plurality of different vehicle makes;

querying the database to retrieve data bus information for a particular vehicle make; and

extracting vehicle data from a vehicle data bus using the vehicle data bus information.

12. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of accessing comprises establishing a wireless link to a remote server operatively connected to the vehicle database.

13 (Previously presented). A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the local telematics unit employs an open standard services delivery platform.

14. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request for vehicle parameter data is a first request, and further comprising the telematics application making a second request for vehicle parameter data responsive to the interpreted data returned in response to the first request.

15. (New) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the telematics application is one of a navigation application, a security application, and a diagnostic application.

16. (New) A local data acquisition unit for installation within a vehicle, comprising:

a telematics application written using generic instructions that are not specific to any particular make or model of vehicle;

an electronic interface for connecting to a vehicle data bus; and

an abstract software layer, operatively disposed between the telematics application and the vehicle data bus and including a wireless link for accessing vehicle-specific data bus information via a computer network,

wherein the abstract software layer is constructed and arranged for applying the vehicle-specific data bus information for translating between the generic instructions of the telematics application and the vehicle data bus.

17. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 16, further comprising a software API (applications programmers interface) operatively coupled between the telematics application and the abstract software layer.

18. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 16, wherein the telematics application is a navigation application.

19. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 16, wherein the telematics application is a security application.

20. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 16, wherein the telematics application is a diagnostics application.

21. (New) A local data acquisition unit for installation within a vehicle, comprising:

a computer;

a telematics application, loaded on the computer and written using generic requests that are not particular to any make or model of vehicle;

an electronic interface, operatively coupled to the computer, for connecting to a proprietary data bus of the vehicle; and

an abstract software layer, loaded on the computer and operatively disposed between the telematics application and the electronic interface,

wherein the abstract software layer is constructed and arranged for extracting vehicle data from the proprietary vehicle data bus in response to the generic requests from the telematics application and for providing the extracted data to the telematics application.

22. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 21, further comprising a wireless link, operative under control of the abstract software layer, for accessing data bus information specific to a make and/or model of the vehicle.

23. (New) A local data acquisition unit as recited in claim 21, further comprising a software API (applications programmers interface) operatively disposed between the telematics application and the abstract software layer, for enabling software communication therebetween.

24. (New) A method of deploying a telematics application in a plurality of vehicles having different makes and/or models, wherein an abstract software layer is installed within each of the plurality of vehicles and is operatively connected to a data bus of the respective vehicle, comprising, for each vehicle:

- creating a telematics application that includes generic requests to the abstract software layer for vehicle data;

- running the telematics application within the respective vehicle;

- accessing, by the abstract software layer and responsive to the generic requests by the telematics application, vehicle data specified in the telematics application; and

- providing the accessed vehicle data to the telematics application to satisfy the generic request.